

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1877

To clarify and reaffirm a cause of action and Federal court jurisdiction
for certain claims against the Government of Iran.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2001

Mr. HARKIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To clarify and reaffirm a cause of action and Federal court
jurisdiction for certain claims against the Government
of Iran.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FEDERAL COURT JURISDICTION OF CERTAIN**
4 **CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF**
5 **IRAN.**

6 (a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Notwithstanding the Algiers
7 Accords, any other international agreement, or any other
8 provision of law, a former Iranian hostage or immediate
9 relative thereof shall have a cause of action for money
10 damages against the Government of Iran for the hostage

1 taking and any death, disability, or other injury (including
2 pain and suffering and financial loss) to the former Ira-
3 nian hostage resulting from the former Iranian hostage's
4 period of captivity in Iran.

5 (b) JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL COURTS.—Not-
6 withstanding the Algiers Accords, any other international
7 agreement, or any other provision of law, no United States
8 court shall decline to hear or determine on the merits a
9 claim under subsection (a) against the Government of
10 Iran.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) ALGIERS ACCORDS.—The term “Algiers Ac-
13 cords” means the Declarations of the Government of
14 the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
15 concerning commitments and settlement of claims by
16 the United States and Iran with respect to resolu-
17 tion of the crisis arising out of the detention of 52
18 United States nationals in Iran, with Undertakings
19 and Escrow Agreement, done at Algiers January 19,
20 1981.

21 (2) FORMER IRANIAN HOSTAGE.—The term
22 “former Iranian hostage” means any United States
23 personnel held hostage in Iran during the period of
24 captivity in Iran.

1 (3) IMMEDIATE RELATIVE.—The term “imme-
2 diate relative” means, with respect to a former Ira-
3 nian hostage, the parent, spouse, son, or daughter of
4 the former Iranian hostage.

5 (4) PERIOD OF CAPTIVITY IN IRAN.—The term
6 “period of captivity in Iran” means the period begin-
7 ning on November 4, 1979, and ending on January
8 20, 1981.

9 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to—

10 (1) any action brought before the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act and being maintained on such date;
12 and

13 (2) any action brought on or after the date of
14 enactment of this Act.

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